

SHELL RHEIMS? YES, TO SAVE GERMAN LIFE

German Blood More Valuable Than French Catholics," Says Von Heeringen.

WILL NOT FIGHT IN CITY

By KARL H. VON WIEGAND.

Western German Headquarters, Dec. 26.—(Delayed.) Via The Hague and London. Dec. 26.—German blood is more valuable than French buildings.

This was the statement today of Gen. von Heeringen, the veteran commander of the German forces before the city of Rheims, as he told me that if it became necessary to bombard the town in order to capture it he would order the city shelled. The destruction of the city, he declared, would be upon the heads of the French if they refused to surrender, as he would not permit his troops to engage in street fighting, which always results in heavy losses.

The German artillery is stationed on the heights about Rheims. From the hills a clear view may be obtained of the entire city. There are artillery duels daily between the French and German guns and continuous shelling from the opposing trenches.

The time has not arrived, however, when the capture of Rheims is regarded as an absolute necessity. I visited various positions in the German lines about Rheims, and in the army there appears to be merely marking time, except for the artillery duelling. Gen. von Heeringen is a seasoned fighter. He does not delight in destruction, but when it is a matter of military necessity he believes in sacrificing property rather than lives.

"When the time comes to take Rheims," said Gen. von Heeringen, at his headquarters, "the French will give it up. I will not order the city to be shelled. The destruction will be upon their own heads."

"I do not want to bombard Rheims. I do not want to destroy the city. This can be easily done from the positions we occupy. I have no desire to attack the city in this way, but I will not allow my forces to engage in street fighting to take Rheims merely to save it from bombardment. This is the only way to save the city at the unnecessary cost to us of many lives. I would be extremely sorry to bombard Rheims, but German blood is more valuable than French buildings."

We will respect the Cathedral of Rheims just as long as the French respect it. We have no desire to harm a single building of the town, but if it can be taken only by bombardment, then, when the time comes, it must be bombarded.

The Germans are strongly entrenched on the heights near Rheims. From the positions I saw it appeared that the German guns would have little trouble in responding to an order for a general bombardment of the town.

FRENCH TREASURES ON JASON

Senator Gomot Praises Participation of Country in Panama Fair.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—Senator Pierre Gomot of the Puy de Dome Department, writing in the Petit Journal about the mission of the United States collector Jason, which brought the treasures of the Panama-Pacific Exposition to the city of Paris, said:

"While German squadrons are making the sea a field of carnage America sends us a warship loaded with freight for a work of peace and civilization. Under the flag of the United States the Republic of America holds out her hand to the Republic of France from the port of Marseilles. There is at present anchored there the same warship which will carry to San Francisco the treasures of our palaces and our museums as well as the most remarkable specimens of our art and industry."

The participation by France in the exposition given to the people of St. Louis, she said, is a proof of the vitality and sufficient calmness to continue her role of a great nation in the world, conscious of her force and her power.

Gomot urges the representatives of Rheims, Lille and Arras, the ruined cities of France, and of Liege and Louvain, be sent to the Panama-Pacific Exposition at St. Francisco.

"On their return," he says, "they could tell their fellow citizens a marvelous story of that great city, which was since almost a century ago, and has since gained a prosperity greater than ever."

"What an example," he says, "What an encouragement! What hope!"

GERMAN ANNEXATION OF BELGIUM EXPECTED

London Looks for Announcement Soon—Would Alter Status of U. S. Consuls.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The British Government has been advised that Germany has decided to annex Belgium.

London this German action is regarded as a preliminary to the official taking over of Belgium by the German Government. Special interest is aroused as to the status of Brand Whitlock, the American Minister, and it is believed that the action taken would have made Germany refuse longer to recognize his credentials. The same applies to the Marquis de Villalobar, the Spanish Minister to Belgium.

At the American Embassy here it was said that Ambassador Page had received no advice regarding the situation, and announcement of the attitude of the United States regarding such a step by Germany is awaited with interest.

U. S. NOT NOTIFIED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Secretary of State Bryan said today that the United States had received no notification from Germany that its Consuls in Belgium territories now under German authority would be recognized under their present appointments. Representatives of South American republics, however, say that their countries have been notified.

If this is a preliminary to the part of Germany, as London seems to believe, preliminary to taking over Belgium officially, it will raise delicate questions which the United States will have to consider carefully. This Government would have no objection to complications over the subject of Germany to recognize Brand Whitlock, the American Minister to Belgium, because he is accredited to the Belgian Government and his duty would still remain wherever that Government was.

In the case of Consuls other questions arise, and some provisional arrangements would probably be made. The method is that the American Republics will act in concert on this matter.

WILLIAM THAW, AMERICAN, NOW FRENCH ARMY AVIATOR

Flyer Leaves Foreign Legion to Join Aviation Corps—Says He's Glad to Get Back to His "Old Job."

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—The correspondent of The Sun with the American section of the Foreign Legion writes as follows, under date of December 23:

"William Thaw, the aviator, has just returned from the tents of the aviation squadron, where he had an interview with the commander. Thaw was informed that the commander, that he and Weston Hall of Bowling Green, Ky., were selected for aviation work. Thaw is to be a pilot and Hall an observer."

J. J. Bach of New York, who has been driving a military automobile in Paris, "Before leaving Thaw said to his comrades: 'I am sorry to leave you, boys, but I am glad to get back at my old job.'"

"He will miss our big Christmas dinner, for which Adjutant Van Wort walked all the way to Pismes and back to buy the ham."

The English boys are all leaving us to join the British army."

"CHANGE" IN TRENCHES.

Americans Corner Food Markets and Start Riots.

Special Correspondence to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—A letter from The Sun's correspondent with the Foreign Legion at the front, dated December 23 and received today, reads:

"I received your postals of November 23 and 24 as I was buying and selling on the stock exchange this morning. Let me describe to you our 'change. Imagine yourself passing through one of the tunnels of a scenic railway like that at Coney Island, only instead of riding in a car you are feeling your way through."

This noise is not due to shrieks from your fellow travellers or to the rumbling car, but to the exclamations of pain or anger, or uncomplimentary remarks at your clumsiness from the stretched out occupants of the trench when you and your companions step on a stomach or a leg or narrowly escape crushing in a skull or disfiguring a face as you push over a standing gun or throw down some hanging harness."

At the evening meal there is an uncertain illumination furnished by candles or grease lights. Men depart for the kitchen when darkness falls, a trek of about three miles, because of the shells. Again, during the night they leave for morning coffee and the day's ration, in order to be back before daylight. With the coffee comes 're-ally' and distribution of rations. As soon as there is sufficient natural light the exchange opens. There is no formality gone through in doing so."

"Who wants chocolate (or cheese or sardines, as the case may be) for his rum?"

"The voice is sure to be Bill Thaw's, for every time we get rum rations he seems to be trying to corner the market. Letters will probably include Hall (of Kentucky), King (of New York), Towle (of New York), Chaffin (of New Orleans) and Dowd (of New York). Sometimes Thaw succeeds. This depends on 'Casey' rate, not on 'Casey's' disposition, you understand, as Casey is as keen to corner the market as Thaw."

"Tobacco finds a market in Trinkard (of New York), Morlan (of California) and Bob Robinson (of New York); also Capdevielle (of New York), the selling end being much the same—Seeger, Towle and Chaffin. Jam—every one buys it, but it is often traded for cigarettes (an outside product, not supplied as rations) by Thaw, King and Hall and by Chaffin before he left. Personally I buy all the jam I can on days that Dowd has cornered the chocolate."

"Trading prices are generally at the fixed rates, but occasionally give the seller the better of it. To picture the scene one needs only think of any open market where buying and selling and exchange go on. The rum ration has an hour, by which time all exchanges made have been handed over (it's a hand to hand process, as we sit in a row) and every one has settled back satisfied. Some of the boys eat a good deal of meat and bread, but such foodstuffs are scarce. The supply is so plentiful they are handed over gratis."

"Prof. Olinger of Columbia has been moved to headquarters with a job as 'hello' guy. No one grudges him the job. Paul Rockwell is in Paris, Carstairs of Philadelphia and Samson (of New York) are returning and Olinger's change. The Americans on the line are four less, but I do not expect to chronicle any more as falling out, unless the worst happens to them."

"Please send me a good map of all the fighting zones, as with maps in front of them it will be much easier for the generals among us to explain to the post how battles are won or lost. We shall miss Prof. Olinger in this respect. He is a genius in explaining movements of troops and what the results would be."

NEW CONTRABAND HITS U. S. TRADE HARD

Great Britain Lists Many Articles Never Before Under the Ban.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—The British Embassy made public tonight a complete list of the additions which Great Britain has made to her list of absolute contraband in the present war.

This list contains many products never before listed as absolute contraband in any war and will impose further restrictions upon American trade.

Great Britain's latest additions to the list of absolute contraband serve to emphasize more impressively than anything that has yet occurred her determination to throw overboard altogether the regulations of the Declaration of London in regard to the contraband.

When the present war began Great Britain announced that she would adhere as closely as possible to these declarations with a few exceptions. On her list of absolute contraband as now made up are many items not found in the Declaration of London.

Until the present war began much headway had been made in movement to restrict interference by belligerents with the trade of neutrals. The tendency seemed to be more and more to assert the principle that the rights of neutrals were to be protected.

With the disregard of the London Declaration it now seems to be the other way, and Great Britain apparently has started out to impose every restriction which will help to starve Germany into submission.

The additions to the contraband list are chiefly materials that might enter into the manufacture of explosives. Partly because of copper and copper wire are added to the list and also rubber, sulphur, glycerine and zinc and lead ores.

Unwrought copper already was on the list of absolute contraband. The copper as hard as any. Here are the additions to the list:

Ingredients of explosives, namely nitric acid, glycerine, calcium acetate and all other metallic acetates, sulphur, potassium nitrate, fractions of distillation products of coal tar between benzol and cresol inclusive; aniline, methyl aniline, dimethylaniline, ammonium perchlorate, sodium perchlorate, sodium chlorate, barium chlorate, ammonium nitrate, cyanamide, potassium chlorate, calcium nitrate, mercury.

Benzene products, camphor and turpentine (oil and spirit). Ferro alloys, including ferro tungsten, ferro molybdenum, ferro manganese, ferro vanadium, ferro chrome.

Pungent products, vanadium, selenium, cobalt, manganese. Wolframite, scheelite, molybdenite, manganite ore, zinc ore, lead ore, bauxite. Alumina and salts of aluminum.

Antimony, together with sulphides and oxides of antimony. Copper, part wrought, and copper wire. Submarine sound signalling apparatus. Tires for motor vehicles and bicycles, together with articles or materials especially adapted for use in manufacture or repair of tires.

Rubber, including raw waste and reclaimed rubber, and goods made wholly of rubber. The conditional list stands as before, but sulphur and glycerine are transferred to absolute list.

U. S. COTTON FOR GERMANY.

Six Ships on the Way; Five More to Follow.

By Central News.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 26.—The American Consul-General at Berlin has arranged for American ships to carry cotton to Germany in return for German drugs. It is stated that six ships have left with cotton cargoes and that five more are to follow.

Pewee Marriage Licenses in Chicago

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—For the first year in six the number of marriage licenses issued in Chicago shows a decrease. The number issued is 916 below the total of last year.

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MANY HUNGARIANS FAVOR THE ALLIES

Premier Sold U. S. Bond Hand and Foot, to Germany.

Writes a Countess.

NO HATRED FOR "ENEMIES"

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The correspondent of the Observer at The Hague says: "There is abundant evidence that a great many Hungarians sympathize with the Allies and although they cannot forget the part played by Russia in the revolution of 1848, they do not regard the Russians with anything like the hatred with which they look upon the Teutons."

"More significant on this point is a letter written from Budapest by Countess Esterházy, a popular hero of the revolution of 1848, to one of her relatives who is a refugee at The Hague. The writer grows with indignation. She says the war was forced upon Hungary and is unpopular and anti-national. 'It is Count Tisza (the Hungarian Premier) who goes on to say, 'who wishes to figure at this moment among the enemies of France and England, whom I love as with my own life, and who I deem to be the cause of the disaster to separate the cause of Hungary from that of Austria and that the Triple Alliance will not be a 'Shift of Neutrality' for the Magyar.'"

"Nevertheless, at this moment, for Hungary Russia is the invader and the memory of 1848 is not blotted out. The appeal made to Russia by Emperor Francis Joseph to come to his aid in order to crush the triumphant Hungarian revolution cannot be forgotten. This is why the leaders of the Hungarian opposition voted the war credits against Serbia and Russia, but if they had known it was a question of bearing arms against France and England, the two great liberal nations, they would never have consented."

"In reply to this aerial attack and also to the throwing of bombs on the open town of Freiburg, which is not defended and is outside the zone of operations, German aircraft threw medium sized bombs into the outskirts of Nancy."

Nancy is about ten miles from the German frontier. The official German statement issued in Berlin yesterday afternoon said that a French airplane had thrown nine bombs on a certain small village on the evening of December 26, adding, 'No troops were stationed at this place; there was only a hospital, which was plainly marked. No damage of consequence was done.' The statement continued:

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Two Persons Killed, 2 Wounded and Several Private Houses Damaged.

FIRST OF KIND IN FRANCE

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—A Zeppelin flew over Nancy early today and dropped fourteen bombs, according to a dispatch received here. The bombs killed two persons and wounded two. No public building was damaged, but several private houses suffered.

No exploit of note by a Zeppelin had been reported since one of the big airships dropped bombs on Antwerp early in the war. Today's first report of activity of a Zeppelin against a French city.

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8 KILLED NEAR WARSAW.

German Aeroplanes Drop 40 Bombs on Sochaczef.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

PRZESMISL, Dec. 26.—It is reported that five German aeroplanes dropped forty bombs on the town of Sochaczef, thirty miles west of Warsaw, today, setting fire to several houses. One of the bombs fell in the middle of a school in the market place, killing eight and wounding twenty-six persons.

The total number of victims of bomb throwing in the Warsaw district during the war is estimated at more than 100.

GIVES TERRITORY FOR ARMS.

Russia Cedes Half of Island of Sakhalin to Japan.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Official advice received from Tokyo by the Japanese Embassy here today announced that Russia has ceded its half of the island of Sakhalin to Japan in exchange for a supply of heavy guns and ammunition.

The German official press bureau gave out on Friday reports that Russia had ceded its half of Sakhalin to Japan for heavy artillery.

The island of Sakhalin, or Karafuto, as the Japanese call it, is separated from the Russian mainland and from the Japanese island of Yezo by narrow straits. It was under Chinese dominion until the nineteenth century. The Russians made their first permanent settlement in 1857. The southern part of the island remained in the hands of the Japanese until 1875, when they ceded it to Russia, which returned the southern two-fifths of the island to Japan by the treaty of Portsmouth in 1905, following the Russo-Japanese war.

The island is 600 miles long and has an area of 24,500 square miles. It is covered with coniferous forests and is rich in fur bearing animals. The population includes 32,000 Russians, of whom 22,000 are convicts.

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BERLIN REPORTS GAIN BOTH EAST AND WEST

Allies Repulsed Near Nieuport—3,000 British Dead at St. Hubert.

1,000 RUSSIANS CAPTURED

BERLIN, by wireless to London, Dec. 26.—The following official statement was issued at headquarters today:

Near Nieuport, during the night of December 24-25, attacks delivered by English and French troops were repulsed.

The success of the battle with English and Indian contingents near St. Hubert can be better judged today. Nineteen officers and 815 men were taken prisoners, while fourteen machine guns, twelve mine throwers and other war material were captured. The enemy left more than 3,000 dead on the field. The English asked for a cessation of hostilities to bury the dead. Our losses were comparatively small.

Some minor engagements have taken place at Libon, southeast of Amiens, and at Tracy-le-Val, northeast of Compiègne. We captured 300 prisoners. In the Vosges, south of Beldolheim, an attack in Upper Alsace, west of Senheim, and also at a point to the southwest of Altkirch, there were small engagements yesterday, but the situation remains unchanged.

The evening of December 25 a French airplane threw nine bombs on a certain small village. No troops were stationed at this place; there was only a hospital, which was plainly marked. No damage of consequence was done.

In reply to this aerial attack and also the throwing of bombs on the open town of Freiburg, which is not defended and is outside the zone of operations, German aircraft threw medium sized bombs into the outskirts of Nancy.

Nancy is about ten miles from the German frontier. The official German statement issued in Berlin yesterday afternoon said that a French airplane had thrown nine bombs on a certain small village on the evening of December 26, adding, 'No troops were stationed at this place; there was only a hospital, which was plainly marked. No damage of consequence was done.' The statement continued:

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